

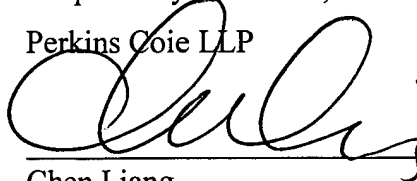
REMARKS

Claims 24-34 were pending in this application when the present Final Office Action was mailed (May 25, 2006), with claims 30-34 withdrawn from consideration. In this response, claim 30 has been amended, and no claims have been canceled. Accordingly, claims 24-29 and 30-34 are currently pending.

As a preliminary matter, the undersigned attorney wishes to thank the Examiner for engaging in a telephone conference on June 12, 2006. During the telephone conference, the applicant's representative and the Examiner discussed the allowability of withdrawn claims 30-34. The Examiner indicated that claims 30-34 are not allowable as being directed toward a different species. As a result, applicant has amended claim 30 to depend from allowed claim 24. Claims 31-34 depend from claim 30. Accordingly, claims 30-34 are now in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, the pending claims comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112 and patentably define over the applied references. The applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application and a mailing of a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned representative at (206) 359-6038.

Respectfully submitted,
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